

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED

1. SUMMARY: CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP, IN ANNOUNCING PLANS FOR
COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES
LATER THIS YEAR, HAS LAUNCHED A BROAD-GAUGED POLITICAL
OFFENSIVE AGAINST CONTINUING IDEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETINGS AND SIMULTANEOUS APPEAL FOR
INCREASED DISCIPLINE, IDEOLOGICAL VIGILANCE AND A NATIONWIDE
MOBILIZATION OF FORCES TO FULFILL ECONOMIC
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TASKS, SEEM LIKELY TO PROVIDE BACKDROP FOR NEW CYCLE OF POLITICAL
AGITATION CULMINATING WITH CELEBRATION IN FEBRUARY 1978
OF THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF 1948 COUP. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETINGS SET. LENGTHY BOLDFACE ARTICLES ON FRONT PAGES OF
RUDE PRAVO AND BRATISLAVA PRAVDA ANNOUNCE PRESIDIUUM OF CPCZ CENTRAL
COMMITTEE HAS ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETINGS OF BASIC PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, CONCURRENT WITH FACTORY-WIDE, COMMUNITY AND MUNICIPAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, FROM DECEMBER 1977 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1978. THESE MEETINGS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY DISTRICT AND REGIONAL PARTY CONFERENCES, WILL REQUIRE INTENSIVE PREPARATION "FROM THE VERY BEGINNING" BY ALL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, AND ARE TO PLAY AN "EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT" ROLE IN A "MOBILIZATION OF FORCES OF THE ENTIRE PARTY AND SOCIETY TO FULFILL THE PROGRAM OF THE FIFTEENTH PARTY CONGRESS." ARTICLES REPEATEDLY STRESS THAT MEETINGS WILL BE A "GREAT INTRA-PARTY AND VERY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EVENT."

3. IDEOLOGY: ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANNED MEETINGS HAS A TWO-PRONGED IDEOLOGICAL THRUST: A COMPREHENSIVE DEFENSE OF PARTY LINE SINCE "TIME OF CRISIS" IN LATE 1960'S AND A DECLARED OFFENSIVE AGAINST "ALL FORMS OF ANTI-COMMUNISM, BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY, PETIT-BOURGEOIS VIEWS AND PREJUDICES AND ALL VARIETIES OF REVISIONISM AND RIGHT OPPORTUNISM." CHARTER 77, MENTIONED BY NAME, IS CHARACTERIZED AS A "HANDFUL OF RENEGADES AND ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM" WHO HAVE BEEN ISOLATED ALONG WITH OTHER "RIGHT-WING AND ANTI-SOCIALIST" ELEMENTS.

4. PARTY LIFE. RUDE PRAVO PUTS NUMBER OF KSC MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES AT MORE THAN 1,400,000 OR ROUGLY 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. COMING MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER MEETINGS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTRA-PARTY LIFE ON THE BASIS OF "INTRA-PARTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM, PARTY STATUTES AND AN INCREASE OF THE PARTY'S AUTHORITY IN SOCIETY." "CORRECT" SELECTION OF CADRES IS EMPHASIZED, AS IS WORK AMONG YOUNG PARTY MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES, SAID TO COMPRISE 30 PERCENT OF KSC. THE ANNOUNCEMENT EXHORTS PARTY ADMINISTRATORS TO "OVERCOME THE SITUATION WHEN NOT ALL PARTY ORGANS AND ORGANIZATIONS SHARED EQUALLY" IN THE WORK TO BE DONE AND THERE WERE "UNJUSTIFIED DIFFERENCES IN EFFECTIVENESS" AMONG THEM. DESPITE A CALL FOR A "DIFFERENTIATED, MORE CONCRETE" APPROACH TO PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN DISTRICTS AND REGIONS, THERE IS NO INDICATION

IN THE ARTICLE THAT ANY WHOLESAL adjustment OF KSC COMPOSITION OR MEMBERSHIP IS CONTEMPLATED.

5. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ECONOMY ARE SINGLED OUT AS DEMANDING FULL ATTENTION. PARTICULARLY CONDEMNED ARE "WEAKNESSES IN WORK, LAZINESS AND ROUTINE ATTITUDES, FORMALISM, BUREAUCRATISM AND LACK OF DISCIPLINE," WHICH ARE TO BE COUNTERED WITH CRITICISM AND SELF-CRITICISM.

6. COMMENT: FOLLOWING THE EXTENDED KICK-OFF ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE TWO PARTY DAILIES (AND SO FAR ONLY IN THEM), WE EXPECT QUITE A CAMPAIGN TO BE BUILD UP AROUND THESE ANNUAL LOWER-LEVEL PARTY

MEETINGS AND AROUND THE DISTRICT AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES TO FOLLOW.
THE CAMPAIGN SHOULD SERVE TWO FUNCTIONS: (A) TO BUILD UP TO
CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER HERE,
ALONG THE LINES OF THE BUILD-UP TO THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION 60TH
ANNIVERSARY, AND (B) TO SPUR THE POPULATION TOWARD GREATER
PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH EXTENDED AGITPROP ACTIVITY. THE WARNING TO
CHARTER 77 ADHERENTS AND WOULD-BE DISSIDENTS THAT THE REGIME IS NOT
GOING TO TAKE THE LID OFF BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY OF BELGRADE II
ALSO COMES THROUGH CLEARLY. PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING THING
ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS THAT IT IMPLIES THAT THE DISTRICT AND
REGIONAL CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD IN MARCH OR APRIL 1978,
I.E. ALMOST EXACTLY TWO YEARS AFTER THE XV PARTY
CONGRESS (APRIL 1976). WHEN THE PRTY STATUTE WAS AMENDED BY
THE XIV PARTY CONGRESS TO REQUIRE SUCH CONFERENCES TO BE HELD EVERY
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TWO-THREE YEARS (VICE EVERY TWO YEARS), CONVENTIONS
WISDOM SUGGESTED THAT PREFERENCE WOULD NORMALLY BE GIVEN TO THE
LONGER INTERVAL. AT THIS POINT WE KNOW OF NO REASON TO ATTACH
SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE APPARENT DECISION TO CONVOKE THE
CONFERENCES SO PROMPTLY, BUT WILL TRY TO DISCERN THE RATIONALE
FOR THIS AS THE LOWER-LEVEL MEETINGS PROCEED.
BYRNE

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